

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 43-52 are pending in this Application.

In the Decision on Appeal, mailed February 26, 2003 ("the Decision"), the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences affirmed the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) rejections of claims 1-6 and 43-52 as set forth in the Examiner's Answer, mailed May 13, 2002. As noted by the Board, the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection has been withdrawn (see the Decision, pages 2 and 3).

In the Decision, the Board notes that "Appellants' argument [for distinguishing the invention from the prior art] is based on the fact that in their invention, the points where light originates are aligned with respective light receiving elements whereas, this is not true of the admitted prior art" (Id., page 6). The Board further notes that, as recited in independent claim 1 (and, likewise, in independent claims 43 and 52), the definition of "light source" may be broadly construed so as to make claims 1, 43 and 52 readable on admitted prior art.

In view of the Boards analysis, Applicants amend independent claims 1, 43 and 52 explicitly to recite that it is a part of at least one of the light emission portions where the light originates that is substantially aligned with a corresponding light receiving element (claims 1 and 43), and that it is a part of at least one of the light emission portions where the light originates and a light receiving element corresponding to the at least one of the light emission portions that substantially overlap (claim 52). As noted by the Board, such a feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, independent claims 1, 43 and 52, as well as the dependent claims 2-6 and 44-51 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims 1 and 43) should now be allowed.

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Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 43 and 52 as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended) An image sensor device which optically reads out a document comprising:

an image sensor portion having a plurality of light receiving elements facing a document to be read out; and

a thin film light source arranged on the document side of said image sensor portion, said thin film light source emitting light to said document,

wherein said thin film light source includes a plurality of light emission portions, each of said light emission portions emitting light to said document, and corresponding to each of said light receiving elements, said light emission portions including a light blocking layer on said light receiving elements side, and said light emission portions being arranged between said light receiving elements and said document, a part of at least one of said light emission portions where said light originates being substantially aligned with a corresponding light receiving element.

43. (Three Times Amended) An image sensor device which optically reads out a document comprising:

an image sensor portion having a plurality of light receiving elements; and

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a thin film light source arranged on a document side of said image sensor portion, said thin film light source emitting light to said document,

wherein light emission portions of said thin film light source emit light to said document, and are arranged in one-to-one correspondence to each of said light receiving elements,

said light emission portions include a light blocking layer on a side facing said light receiving elements and are arranged between said light receiving elements and said document, and

a part of at least one of said light emission portions where said light originates is substantially aligned with a corresponding light receiving element.

52. (Twice Amended) An image sensor device which optically reads out a document comprising:

an image sensor portion having a plurality of light receiving elements; and

a thin film light source arranged on a document side of said image sensor portion, said thin film light source emitting light to said document,

wherein light emission portions of said thin film light source are arranged in one-to-one correspondence to each of said light receiving elements,

said light emission portions emit light to said document, include a light blocking layer on a side facing said light receiving elements, and are arranged between said light receiving elements and said document, and

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a part of at least one of said light emission portions where said light originates and a light receiving element corresponding to said at least one of said light emission portions substantially overlap.